



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



JAMERSON BRIDGE DEDICATED

Veterans, family members, and community leaders gathered Thursday in Little Eagle to dedicate the LCPL Kenneth Jamerson bridge. The Grand River Bridge at Little Eagle will now be the LCPL Kenneth Jamerson Memorial Bridge.

Jamerson died April 1967, at the Da Nang Hospital in Vietnam from injuries received when a land mine exploded while he was on patrol.

"It is our sacred duty to keep their legacies fresh in the memories of future generations; for their service is the cornerstone of our great nation," said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Guest speakers for the dedication were: MSG Richard Kirkpatrick of the SDNG, SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson, and Everette and Frank Jamerson.



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The dedication is part of a Fall-
en Heroes Bridge Program led by
the South Dakota Departments of
Veterans Affairs, Military, and
Transportation.



SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS COME TOGETHER FOR “COMMON CAUSE”

A year ago, the American Legion Department of South Dakota's Membership & Marketing Committee decided to spearhead service projects throughout the department as part of an overall marketing plan “to show we're out doing things for veterans,” said Courtney VanZanten, South Dakota's department service officer and assistant adjutant.

On July 10, members of the department's American Legion family put some muscle behind that initiative. Representatives from 14 South Dakota American Legion posts, Auxiliary units and Sons of The American Legion squadrons along with their partners, descended upon the DTOM 22/0 Veterans Ranch in Warner to assist with clean-up around the ranch.

The Veterans Ranch provides a venue for healing and recovery for servicemembers, veterans, and their families primarily through free equine therapy. Those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, military sexual trauma, and other conditions are able to use the ranch.

“Their big focus is mental health and suicide prevention, and the ranch fits nicely with what we wanted to do,” VanZanten said. “We're not a rich department. But what we do have is members. We are the largest nonprofit, by membership in the state of South Dakota. Manpower is our strength and we can leverage that.”

Calling it “sweat equity,” the volunteers spent the day at the Veterans Ranch demolishing an old granary barn, installing fencing in a pasture, cleaning up newly purchased land and horse pens, landscaping, and building a loafing shed to shelter horses.

A total of 72 American Legion family members were a part of an effort that also included Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the United Way. The group started the day at 8 a.m. and didn't finish until 6 p.m., putting in an estimated 400 volunteer hours.

On its Facebook page, DTOM 22/0 praised the effort. VanZanten said similar efforts are expected to happen in the department down the road, pointing to Department Membership Chairman Travise Flisrand's focus on service projects that was developed in 2020.

You can learn more about DTOM22/0 Foundation at: <https://dtom220.org/>.



Our Hearts are Full!!! This is a true example of bridge building and what it means to be part of a family. To bring all of these organizations and volunteers together from all over the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, shows that no matter our branch of service, our rank, our organization, or physical capabilities, we all honored the oath of taking care of our brothers and sisters and worked together as one amazing family. We had 13 organizations, over 72 volunteers and approximately 400 total volunteer hours in one day. Thank you, for your dedication, hardwork, and belief in our mission to save lives together. This is what it means to be an American, and the most amazing display of Americanism. We are humbled. #sdlegionserving #wefighttogether #neverforget #hopeiswortheverypenny



STURGIS 2021

Veterans Honoring Ride



Don the Leather!

August 13th

\$20 Donation Honoring Native American Code Talkers
Proceeds to support homeless veterans

**Ride starts at *Indian* Motorcycles, 2130 Main St.
Sturgis, SD. We will ride 40 miles through the Black Hills to
Memorial Park, Rapid City. Kickstands up @11 AM**

For more info: Email Contact@redrummc.com & Shawnee Redbear, Veteran Service at Shawnee@ogla.org



STATE VETERANS HOME SURVEYS

Congratulations and thank you to all the team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home on their inspections and surveys. Their continued dedication and commitment has delivered great outcomes!

The South Dakota Department of Health survey found zero deficiencies at the Home!!!!!! The United States Department of Veterans Affairs found only seven infractions out of the 470 surveyed items.



VETERAN STAND DOWN ROSEBUD



When:

Thursday, July 29, 2021,
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Central Time

Where:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Pow Wow Grounds
200 Akicita Street, Rosebud, SD 57570

Events for the Day:

- RST Medical Mobile Unit
- RST Alcohol Treatment Program
- RST CHR Program
- Tokala Inajinyo Youth Group

SERVICES OFFERED

Lunch
Clothing
VA Benefits
Housing Referrals

Employment Services
Legal Assistance
Readjustment Counseling
Much More!

* Please bring a copy of your DD214, dependent information, and identification to the event. Documentation is needed so we can fully serve you and your needs.

VA



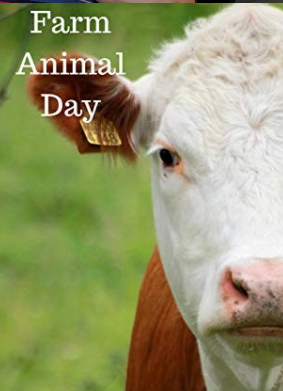
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Black Hills Health Care System

For questions contact VA Black Hills:
Ghislé Kitzelman at: 605-490-0029

STATE VETERANS HOME FARM DAY

You can tell by the expressions on the resident's faces that 'farm day' at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home was a huge success.

Special thanks to the staff that organized and assisted with this event.



WOMEN VETERAN BOOT CAMP ACCELERATOR EMPOWERS ENTREPRENEURS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the PenFed Foundation brought together 80 women veteran entrepreneurs for a six-month accelerator program, July 13 that would prepare them for sustainability and growth in federal and commercial marketplaces.

Participants came from 29 states and are VA Center for Verification and Evaluation verified, have three-to-five years in business, and have past performance as a prime or subcontractor.

"It's important we provide an environment where women entrepreneurs can receive strategic and deliberate education, empowerment, engagement, and access to enhance their businesses," said VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Executive Director Sharon Ridley. "Through entrepreneurship, women veterans have an opportunity to leverage their military and leadership skills to increase and create economic growth in their communities,"

Classes are focused on relationship building, product/market analysis, business development, and growth preparation. Participants meet in small groups and receive coaching from industry leaders such as AstraZeneca, Halfaker & Associates, and OptumServe.

The program culminates with a pitch competition in October. The participant with the winning pitch will receive a PenFed Foundation grant to be used to grow their business.

"We have a shared goal: to empower women veterans and create access to capital and system to support them," said PenFed Foundation President and retired U.S. Army Gen. John W. Nicholson, Jr. "We believe in creating a business ecosystem that establishes service in the U.S. military as the most reliable pathway to successful entrepreneurship."

Click here to learn more about the [Veteran Entrepreneur Investment Program](#). Learn more about VA's mission to empower and educate women veteran entrepreneurs for success and economic opportunities at the [Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 17—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Jeremy Vrooman—Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 1 (9700 E. HWY 42)—Sioux Falls—1:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 17—Tribute to Fallen Soldiers—Military Heritage Alliance Building (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Doors open at 5:00 pm (CT)—Social—6:30 pm (CT) and Dinner—7:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 21—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Military Heritage Alliance Building—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
- Jul 24—Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100th Anniversary Commemoration—Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Jul 24—American Legion State Commander Wolkow's Homecoming—De Smet Event Center (705 Wilder Lane SW)—DeSmet—1:00 pm (CT) (program and meal to follow)
- Jul 29—Veterans Stand Down—Rosebud Sioux Tribe Pow Wow Grounds—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- Jul 31—American Legion State Auxiliary President Stier Homecoming—Phoenix Center (Main Street)—Onida—1:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 14—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Richard Bertram—Colome American Legion Post (208 Main Street)—Colome—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 16-18—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
- Aug 21—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PFC Robert Rand—Parker Community Building (299 N. Main)—Parker—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 23—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser at Barrel House (4701 E. 54th Street)—Sioux Falls
- Aug 23—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CPT Charles Lane—American Legion Post 183 (330 W. Yankton Street)—Tabor—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 30—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—PVT Bruce Ruby—Scherr Howe Event Center (212 Main Street)—Mobridge—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 2-6—South Dakota State Fair—Huron
- Sep 2—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
- Sep 2—Salute to Veterans Program at the SD State Fair—Freedom Stage—10:30 am (CT)
- Sep 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Herbert Lyman and T/SGT James Lyman—Thunder Hawk American Legion Post—Thunder Hawk—10:00 am (MT)
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7
- Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—9:15 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:30 pm (CT)
- Sep 22-23—DAV and Auxiliary 14th District Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—1519 W. 51st Street—Sioux Falls



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Oct 9— Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8

Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:00 pm (CT)

Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls

Nov 13—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—12:00—3:00 pm (MT)

Dec 14—Governor's Budget Address

Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—11:00 am (CT)

Jan 11—Governor's State of the State Address

Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride



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South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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